

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

The following listing, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims in the present application.

1.-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
in response to a request to perform [(an)] a first operation on a volume, wherein  
the volume comprises a plurality of physical locations, at least one of the  
physical locations having data stored thereon:  
accessing a volume sieve, wherein the volume sieve comprises:  
a property, wherein  
the property includes information identifying one or more  
operations,  
the one or more operations are performed in response to the  
request to perform the first operation, and  
the one or more operations are performed on a set of physical  
locations of the volume, wherein the set of physical  
locations is identified by a set of location descriptions;  
and  
the set of location descriptions, wherein  
each location description of the set of location descriptions  
identifies one or more of the physical locations of the  
volume, and  
the set of location descriptions identifies all the physical  
locations within the volume upon which the operations  
can be performed;

detecting whether a given physical location is identified by the set of location descriptions;

performing the one or more operations upon [[a]] the given physical location of the plurality of locations in the volume only if the given physical location is identified by the set of location descriptions, is identified in at least one location description of a sieve associated with the operation,  
wherein the sieve comprises the at least one location description and a property,  
wherein the property comprises information identifying the operation, and  
wherein the at least one location description identifies the set of all locations within the volume upon which the operation can be performed.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein  
the at least one set of location descriptions is specified by an application program.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein  
the first operation is replication.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 further comprising:  
obtaining a set of entities, wherein

the plurality of physical locations comprises a plurality of subsets of physical locations, and

an entity in the set of entities has permission to perform the operation on respective data in at least one of the plurality of subsets of physical locations.

**32. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 27 wherein the ~~at least one set of~~ location descriptions and the corresponding property are designated by a requester.

**33. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 32 further comprising: obtaining a designation of the first operation to be performed.

**34. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 32 wherein the requester manages data in the volume.

**35. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 32 wherein the requester performs a management function of a set of management functions for the volume.

**36. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 32 wherein the requester identifies a respective physical location in the volume corresponding to each location described in the ~~at least one set of~~ location descriptions.

**37. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 32 wherein each location described in the ~~at least one set of~~ location descriptions is specified by a beginning location and

a number of contiguous locations starting at the beginning location.

**38. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 32 wherein  
the ~~at least one set of~~ location description is designated by a set of indicators, wherein  
the set of indicators comprises an indicator for each respective location of the  
plurality of locations, and  
each indicator of the set of indicators indicates whether the respective location for  
the indicator is described in the at least one location description.

**39. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 32 further comprising:  
obtaining a set of locations; and  
performing a second operation on the set of locations after the operation is performed on  
the given physical location.

**40. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 39 wherein  
the at least one location description and the ~~corresponding~~ property are designated by  
the requester; and  
the operation and the second operation are designated by the requester.

**41. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 32 wherein  
each type of operation in the volume sieve is performed on the given location if the  
volume sieve is specified.

**42. (Currently Amended)** A system comprising:  
means for storing a sieve associated with an operation; ~~and~~

means for performing the following in response to a request to perform the a first operation on a volume, wherein the volume comprises a plurality of physical locations, wherein at least one of the physical locations has data stored thereon, and wherein the means for performing the following comprise:

means for accessing a volume sieve, wherein the volume sieve comprises:  
a property, wherein

the property includes information identifying one or more  
operations,

the one or more operations are performed in response to the  
request to perform the first operation, and

the one or more operations are performed on a set of physical  
locations of the volume, wherein the set of physical  
locations is identified by a set of location descriptions;  
and

the set of location descriptions, wherein

each location description of the set of location descriptions  
identifies one or more of the physical locations of the  
volume, and

the set of location descriptions identifies all the physical  
locations within the volume upon which the operations  
can be performed;

means for detecting whether a given physical location is identified by the set  
of location descriptions; and

means for performing the one or more operations upon [[a]] the given physical  
location of the plurality of locations in the volume only if the given  
physical location is identified by the set of location descriptions. ~~is~~  
~~identified in at least one location description of a sieve associated with~~  
~~the operation,~~

~~wherein the sieve comprises the at least one location description and a~~  
~~property,~~

~~wherein the property comprises information identifying the operation,  
and  
wherein the at least one location description identifies the set of all  
locations within the volume upon which the operation can be  
performed.~~

43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42 wherein  
the ~~at least one set of~~ location descriptions and the ~~corresponding~~ property are  
designated by a requester.

45. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42 further comprising:  
means for obtaining a designation of the first operation-to-be-performed.

46. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
one or more storage devices, wherein the one or more storage devices comprise a  
plurality of physical locations in a volume wherein at least one of the  
physical locations has data stored thereon; and  
a module configured to perform the following in response to a request to perform  
[[an]] a first operation on the volume, wherein the module configured to  
perform the following comprises:  
a module configured to access a volume sieve, wherein the volume sieve  
comprises:  
a property, wherein  
the property includes information identifying one or more  
operations,

the one or more operations are performed in response to the request to perform the first operation, and  
the one or more operations are performed on a set of physical locations of the volume, wherein the set of physical locations is identified by a set of location descriptions; and  
the set of location descriptions, wherein  
each location description of the set of location descriptions identifies one or more of the physical locations of the volume, and  
the set of location descriptions identifies all the physical locations within the volume upon which the operations can be performed;  
a module configured to detect whether a given physical location is identified by the set of location descriptions; and  
a performing module configured to perform the one or more operations upon  
[[a]] the given physical location of the plurality of locations in the volume only if the given physical location is identified by the set of location descriptions. is identified in at least one location description of a sieve,  
wherein the sieve comprises the at least one location description and a property,  
wherein the property comprises information identifying the operation, and  
wherein the at least one location description identifies the set of all locations within the volume upon which the operation can be performed.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46 wherein  
the ~~at least one set of~~ location descriptions and the ~~corresponding~~ property are  
designated by a requester.

49. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46 further comprising:  
an ~~obtaining~~ module configured to obtain a designation of the first operation-to-be  
performed.

50. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising:  
instructions configured to perform the following in response to a request to  
perform an operation on a volume, wherein the volume comprises a  
plurality of physical locations, wherein at least one of the physical  
locations has data stored thereon, wherein the instructions configured to  
perform the following comprise:  
instructions configured to access a volume sieve, wherein the volume sieve  
comprises:  
a property, wherein  
the property includes information identifying one or more  
operations,  
the one or more operations are performed in response to the  
request to perform the first operation, and  
the one or more operations are performed on a set of physical  
locations of the volume, wherein the set of physical  
locations is identified by a set of location descriptions;  
and  
the set of location descriptions, wherein  
each location description of the set of location descriptions  
identifies one or more of the physical locations of the  
volume, and

the set of location descriptions identifies all the physical locations within the volume upon which the operations can be performed;

instructions configured to detect whether a given physical location is identified by the set of location descriptions; and

performing instructions configured to perform the one or more operations upon

[[a]] the given physical location of the plurality of locations in the volume only if the given physical location is identified by the set of location descriptions, is identified in at least one location description of a sieve associated with the operation,

wherein the sieve comprises the at least one location description and a property,

wherein the property comprises information identifying the operation, and

wherein the at least one location description identifies the set of all locations within the volume upon which the operation can be performed.

51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50 wherein the ~~at least one set of~~ location descriptions and the ~~corresponding~~ property are designated by a requester.

53. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50 further comprising:  
~~obtaining~~ instructions configured to obtain a designation of the first operation-to-be performed.

54. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:  
a processor; and  
the computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, wherein  
the computer-readable medium is coupled to the processor.

55-61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the performing the operation further comprises:  
providing a function name to a requestor, wherein  
the requestor generated the request.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein  
the property also comprises information specifying a characteristic of data stored in the plurality of physical locations, wherein the operation is only performed on the given location if data stored in the given location has the characteristic.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein  
the property comprises information identifying a plurality of operations.